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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/924,883	08/08/2001	Rong-Ji Liu	JCLA 7375	3690
7590	01/26/2005		EXAMINER WORKU, NEGUSSIE	
J.C. Patents, Inc. 4 VENTURE SUITE 250 Irvine, CA 92618			ART UNIT 2626	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 01/26/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/924,883

Applicant(s)

LIU, RONG-JI

Examiner

Negussie Worku

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 August 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4,5,7 and 8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3,6 and 9 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

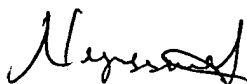
Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 August 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kiyohara et al. (USP 6,304,683) in view of Fan et al. (USP 6,757,081).

With respect to claim 1, Kiyohara discloses a method of shortening multiple image scanning duration, (as shown by fig 2-5, see col.13, lines 25-28) comprising the steps of: setting the scanning parameters (pre-set scanning condition, col.9, lines 44-48) of each image in a pre-scanning operation (pre-scanning process, see col.8, lines 50-55).

Kiyohara does not disclose classifying the images into groups according to a categorization method; assigning all images belonging to the same group to a scanning region; and initializing the scanning operation.

However, Fan et al. in the same area of image reading and processing device (as shown by fig 1-5) teaches classifying the images into groups according to a

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categorization method, (a system 30 of fig 1, for classifying and grouping images in pixel by pixel basis, see col.10, lines 5-10); assigning all images belonging to the same group to a scanning region, see (col.2, lines 45-53); and initializing the scanning operation, see (col.7, lines 64-67).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the image reading and processing device of Kiyohara et al. to include: classifying the images into groups according to a categorization method; assigning all images belonging to the same group to a scanning region; and initializing the scanning operation.

It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the image processing device of Kiyohara by the teaching of Fan et al. for the reason that, it would have been allowed users to shorten the scanning time of multiple documents and increasing productivity.

With respect to claim 2, Kiyohara et al. does not disclose discloses the method, wherein after scanning all scanning regions, images belonging to the same scanning region is grouped together.

Fan et al. discloses the method, (as shown by fig 1-5) wherein after scanning all scanning regions, images belonging to the same scanning region is grouped together, see (col.2, lines 45-53).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the image reading and processing

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device of Kiyohara et al. to include: a method, wherein after scanning all scanning regions, images belonging to the same scanning region is grouped together.

It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the image processing device of Kiyohara by the teaching of Fan et al. for the reason that, it would have been allowed users to shorten the scanning time of multiple documents and increasing productivity.

With respect to claim 4, Kiyohara et al. discloses the method, wherein the scanning parameter includes the resolution of the image and the data quantity of the image, see (pre-set resolution col.9, lines 44-48).

With respect to claim 5, Kiyohara et al. does not disclose the method wherein the categorization method includes grouping all images containing a common scanning line section together.

Fan et al. discloses the method wherein the categorization method (as shown by fig 1-5) includes grouping all images containing a common scanning line section together, see (col.2, lines 45-53).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the image reading and processing device of Kiyohara et al. to include: a method wherein the categorization method includes grouping all images containing a common scanning line section together.

It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the image processing device of Kiyohara by the teaching of Fan et al. for the reason that, it would have been allowed users to shorten the scanning time for plurality of documents and increasing productivity.

With respect to claim 7, Kiyohara discloses the method, (as shown by fig 1-5) wherein the categorization method includes grouping all images having a resolution within a preset resolution range together, see (col.9, lines 44-48).

With respect to claim 8, Kiyohara discloses the method, (as shown by fig 1-5), wherein the categorization method includes grouping all images having user-defined properties together (pre set scanning resolution see col.9, lines 44-48).

Claims having Allowable subject matter

3. Claims 3, 6 and 9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

With respect to claim 3, the prior art does not teach or suggest the method, wherein the step of assigning images belonging to the same group to the same scanning region further includes the sub-steps of: selecting out a first unprocessed image to serve as a contrast-scanning region; selecting the next in line unprocessed image and comparing with the contrast scanning region; determining if the unprocessed

image and the contrast-scanning region has a common scanning line section; integrating the selected unprocessed image and the contrast-scanning region to become a new contrast scanning region if the unprocessed image and the original contrast-scanning region has a common scanning line section; assigning the contrast scanning region to be a scanning region if the selected unprocessed image and the contrast-scanning region has no common scanning line section; and repeating the aforementioned steps until all images are processed.

With respect to claim 6, the prior art does not disclose the method, wherein the categorization method includes grouping all images having a number of scanning stops within a preset scanning stop range together.

With respect to claim 9, the prior art does not disclose the method wherein the categorization method further includes, preset scanning stop number ranges, image resolution ranges, user-defined properties.

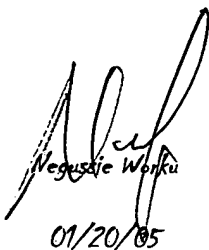
4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Negussie Worku whose telephone number is 305-5441. The examiner can normally be reached on 7am-4pm.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kimberly Williams can be reached on 703-305-4863. The fax phone

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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Negotiate Worku
01/20/05


KIMBERLY WILLIAMS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER